



STATE OF IOWA



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KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

IOWA CHILD ADVOCACY BOARD
CASA and ICFCRB Programs
JUDGE GERALD W. MAGEE, CHAIRPERSON
JAMES A. HENNESSEY, ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings!

On behalf of the Iowa Child Advocacy Board and all of our staff throughout the state, we welcome you and thank you for volunteering to serve in your new advocacy role with the Iowa Child Advocacy Board. Whether you will be a member of one of our Foster Care Review Boards or will serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for one or more of Iowa's vulnerable children, we believe you will find the work both rewarding and challenging. The Iowa Child Advocacy Board is making a special effort to increase the number of children and youth who can be served through both of our programs. Your willingness to contribute your time and efforts is helping to make that a reality.

Many of the children and families served by our programs emphasize how much they appreciate that a volunteer like you is willing to help because you really want to, not because you are paid. Our volunteers report the sense of fulfillment they feel in establishing their professional advocacy relationship with the youth they serve and the opportunity to help them achieve safe and timely permanency in a caring family. The coordinators, staff and senior volunteers in your area stand ready to help as you begin your work. They will be available also when you are confronted with challenges, and the difficult choices that come with this work.

Your first step is to complete the **Introduction to Child Advocacy Training Material** and accompanying **Workbook**. Please inform your coordinator when you finish the material and have completed the workbook.

Your next step will be to register for and to attend the Foundations in Child Advocacy Training, a two-day in person event for all new volunteers across the state, to learn together how to effectively advocate for children in Iowa. Your coordinator will provide you with our upcoming training dates and the registration process. The Foundations training is designed to provide you with the legal framework from which we advocate and a beginning understanding of the issues that the children and families we serve face. This continues to be an opportunity for reflection and assessment of this advocacy role for you, along with being an ongoing screening tool for us on your journey to becoming a Child Advocacy Board volunteer.

Approximately two weeks before the Foundations Training you will receive the **Pre-Foundations Training Material** and its accompanying **Workbook**. Completion of the material and workbook is required before attending the in-person training.

The final step for training will come after you have successfully completed the Foundations Training, when you meet locally with your Coordinator to learn program specifics for the county in which you will be volunteering. Your Coordinator will provide you with more details about the final step and the material that will be covered during that training.

Thank you so much for your interest in our program and your willingness to help some of Iowa's neediest children to succeed!

Jim Hennessey
Iowa Child Advocacy Board Administrator
515-242-6392

Dave Zimmerman
Program Liaison
515-281-7627

Sherri Ripperger
Office Manager, Administrator Assistant
515-281-7299

Lesa Christianson
Child Advocacy Training Coordinator
515-986-4790